

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 24-28 to place them in independent form as suggested by the Office Action.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 1-23 are allowed. However, Applicants submit that all of claims 1-28 are allowable for at least the following reasons.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR § 1.116(b) because, as discussed below, the amendments comply "with objections or requirements as to form" (see MPEP § 714.12) suggested in the Office. Additionally, entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR § 1.116 because the amendments (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the amendments merely rewrite the dependent claims into independent form as suggested by the Office Action; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Applicants thus respectfully request entry of the amendments.

The Office Action objects to claims 24-28 as being of improper dependent form. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 24-28 into independent form as suggested by the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-28.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite Examiner Brockett to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JOC/tea

Attachment:  
Amendment Transmittal

Date: March 7, 2005

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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